

REMARKS

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner:

(1) indicated that Figures 5-9 should be designated by a legend such as "Prior Art" because only that which is old is illustrated;

(2) rejected claims 1-17, 21-41, 45-62, 66-72, 76-81, 85-90 and 94-96 under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Wu et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,433,921) ("Wu"); and

(3) objected to claims 18-20, 42-44, 63-65, 73-75, 82-84 and 91-93 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response to Item 1 above, Applicants have amended Figs. 6A and 7A to add the legend "Prior Art". Applicants note that Figs. 5A and 5B are not prior art. While the dashed lines in these figures illustrate an old approach, the solid lines illustrate a novel approach of the present invention. Applicants also note that Figs. 6B, 7B, 8 and 9 illustrate a novel approach of the present invention.

In response to Item 2 above, Applicants have canceled claims 1-17, 21-41, 45-62, 66-72, 76-81, 85-90 and 94-96 without prejudice, in order to expedite issuance of the subject matter deemed allowable by the Examiner. Applicants expressly reserve the right to prosecute all canceled subject matter in related applications.

In response to Item 3 above, Applicants have amended claims 18, 42, 63, 73, 82 and 91 to rewrite these claims in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.

Thus, Applicants believe that claims 18-20, 42-44, 63-65, 73-75, 82-84 and 91-93 are now in condition for allowance, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

In the event that any additional fees may be required in this matter, please charge the same, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 16-0221.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,



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